

MV-22 Osprey

Discussion

Today the Marine Corps stands on the threshold of a revolutionary capability employing 21st Century technology. Recognizing the tremendous operational advantages of tiltrotor technology, the Corps has championed the development of this innovative aircraft. The impact of this capability will be as far reaching as the Marine Corps' introduction of helicopters on the battlefield of the Korean War.

In December 1994, the Secretary of Defense announced the decision to replace the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter with the MV-22 Osprey. The new tiltrotor aircraft has greater speed, range, and payload. It will carry 24 combat-loaded Marines enabling the MAGTF to exploit its combat power and effectively execute OMFTS well into the 21st Century.



Strategically mobile, the Osprey is capable of global self-deployment with its aerial refueling ability. The combination of range, speed, and payload of the MV-22 nearly triples the depth of a MAGTF's present day area of influence. This significantly complicates an enemy's defensive requirements and inhibits the enemy's opportunity to concentrate forces. The superior combat radius of this aircraft allows Navy ships to maintain adequate stand-off distance from enemy antiship missiles, enhanced observation devices, underwater mines, and other developing threats.

In today's volatile environment, the expeditionary Marine Corps is the most capable and cost-effective option among deployable conventional forces. The arrival of the MV-22 in the FMF will provide the flexibility needed to prevail against the increasing uncertainty of future aggressors.

Marine Corps Position

The acquisition of the MV-22 represents a tremendous improvement in the Corps' ability to project power from over the horizon to inland objectives. The MV-22 remains the Marine Corps' number one and most critical aviation acquisition priority.